



South Dakota Department of the Military
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY TO BE HELD FOR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT

A deployment ceremony will be held for 39 Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Saturday, Feb. 27, at 10 a.m. (CT) at the Harrisburg High School auditorium.

The public is encouraged to attend.

Members of the Sioux Falls-based unit are scheduled for a yearlong deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield. While in Kuwait, the unit's mission will be to conduct force protection and security operations.

Planned speakers for the ceremony include Gov. Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general.

The unit will report to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This will be the second mobilization for the 196th, which deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2010-2011.

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WEAR YOUR COLORS PROUDLY

Colors hold significance for people around the world. Not only do colors influence emotion, but they also hold meaning in various cultures, holidays and activities, such as football! Some might ask, "What do the colors orange, dark blue, and white symbolize?" This question can be answered differently depending on where you live. I've been proudly wearing the dark blue, orange and white for over 30 years. To me these colors signify Broncos, winners, teamwork, success, champions, front-runners, spirit and loyalty!

Color charts will show you that dark blue symbolizes integrity, knowledge, power, and seriousness; while orange symbolizes energy, balance, enthusiasm, warmth, vibrant, expansive, flamboyant, demanding of attention; so I guess they align close with my analogy!

Colors play a large role in many of our lives – from our first pack of colors, to the color of our first car, to decorum in our home, to our holiday decor. Holidays such as St. Patrick's Day, Valentine's Day, Independence Day and Christmas are symbolized and marketed by colors.

Every Independence Day we wave our flag, but do we ever stop and ask "Why does America salute the red, white and blue?"

The colors and their significance trace back to the birth of the country, and had very specific meanings in the creation of the Great Seal. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution authorizing a committee to develop a seal for the country. The committee was instructed to draw up a seal that reflected the Founding Fathers' beliefs and values, as well as the sovereignty of the new nation. Red, white and blue were chosen.

Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, explained the significance to Congress when he presented the seal. "The colors," Thomson said at the time, "are those used in the flag of the United States of America. White signifies purity and innocence. Red, hardiness & valour, and Blue... signifies vigilance, perseverance & justice."

Although most Americans today aren't aware of the symbolism behind the flag's red, white and blue, I do believe the flag still evokes patriotism and pride and that they know the flag represents our freedoms – freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of religion.

Perhaps Ronald Reagan said it best when he said, "*Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.*"

God bless the United States of America and the men and women who serve to protect our freedom.

God bless the red, white and blue.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs





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**MARCH 18, 2016
9:00 AM-3:00 PM
SIOUX FALLS VA
4TH FLOOR AUDITORIUM**

Licensed attorneys, U.S.D. law students (*student assistance does not constitute legal advice*), Veteran Services Officers, VA Benefits and VA Homeless Program staff will be available throughout the day to assist Veterans with questions, legal forms, and counsel.

Program is funded in part by the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division through a subgrant from the ABA Fund for Justice and Education

For more information contact:

Ole Olesen - Veterans' Legal Education Group 605-415-2778

Disclaimer: VA assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of legal services provided. This referral does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement by VA.

The Wells Fargo Veterans Scholarship Program

The Wells Fargo logo, consisting of the words "WELLS" and "FARGO" in a gold, serif font, stacked vertically within a red square.

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Deadline to apply is February 29, 2016.

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QUILTERS GUILD WARM THE HEARTS OF OUR HEROES

Recently, the Minnekahta Quilters Guild held their annual meeting at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice Veterans Home (MJFVH) auditorium.

In association with the national quilts of valor program these quilters presented 15 quilts to our heroes at MJFVH. This is the fourth consecutive year they have presented quilts to our veterans.

The Guild also presented the Home with a donation of \$1,000 to be used to purchase new hair dryers/chairs for the beauty salon at the Home.

In this special quilt memories play a part
in putting it together so it warms your heart.

Each little block has a story to tell,
and with just a glimpse, you'll recall it well.

So as the memories flow, wrap it around snug,
and close your eyes tight, for a big heartfelt hug.



**Proof positive that quilters
are athletes
and quilting is a sport.**

Quilting involves:

* batting * running stitches *

* pumping iron *

* rowing * hunting (for fabric) *

hooping * and ditching *



Upcoming Events

Mar. 3—SFVAHCS Art Show
May 10—SDDVA Mini Conference—Rapid City
May 11—SDDVA Mini Conference Pierre—American Legion Post 8—520 S. Pierre Street
May 12—SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings—City/County Building—520 3rd Street—Suite 300
Mar. 12—SFVAHCS Variety Show
Mar. 14-20—National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans
Apr. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
April 15-17—DAV Convention—Rapid City—Adoba
Apr. 20—Veterans Council Meeting—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls
May 14—South Dakota Vietnam Veterans of America Meeting/Election—Post 8 American Legion—Pierre
(election at 11:00 am (CT) and meeting at 1:00 pm (CT))
Jun. 16-19—American Legion State Convention—Ramkota—Watertown
Jul. 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
Jul. 23-24—Sioux Falls Air Show
Oct. 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)

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